

Far East Lines Forced to Cut Their Sailings

Depression in Japan Brings Reduction in Trade With U. S.; Kerr Line Takes Several Ships From Route

Withdrawal of a number of ships in the Far East service and reduction in the schedule of sailings have been forced upon several steamship lines by the financial depression in Japan. Expansion of business in the first part of the year, which resulted in an increase in shipping, has given way to a little slump in trade, which offers little hope of improvement in the near future.

It was reported in shipping circles yesterday that the Kerr Line, which is operating Norwegian vessels in the Far East service, would abandon the route after the first of the year. This route was denied by A. E. Clegg and other officials of the company, who said that their sailings would not be as frequent as before but that they had no intention of leaving the trade.

Several other lines have cut down the number of ships on the route. It was said that the cause of the depression, so far as the steamship lines are concerned, is lack of markets. Rates have been kept normal by the agreement to post cash forfeits of \$25,000 to guarantee the conference tariffs.

Shipping Notes

Andrew Scott, secretary of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, who has been in this country about two months, sailed for England yesterday on the Whitehall Club's decision.

Members of the United Kingdom and Continental Conferences will meet today at 8 Bridge Street to give a final answer to the demand of the Gulf Shipping Conference for a shorter spread between Gulf and North Atlantic rates on cotton to Europe. The conferences will reply to a telegram sent last Saturday asking for a fuller statement of the position of the Northern lines.

Managing operators of shipping board vessels will appoint a committee shortly to attend the conference to be called in January by Commissioner T. V. O'Connor, vice-chairman of the board, on readjustment of stevedoring charges.

Because of the number of requests from shippers for statements on the risk premiums paid out during the German submarine campaign with the view of collecting indemnities from the German Noteholders, insurance companies have decided to charge for the extra work involved. It was said yesterday that some of the best admiralty lawyers, among them, have collected, holding aloof from the movement.

Large Grain Shipments
To Sail From Boston

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

BOSTON, Dec. 12.—More than 3,000,000 bushels of grain will be shipped from this port during the next few days. The two big elevators at the Boston & Maine yards at Charlestown are filled to capacity, and about 150 more grain cars are expected there. The elevator at the Boston & Albany terminal is filled, and hundreds of additional cars are on the way from loading points.

To-day 187,000 bushels of cereals, mostly wheat, awaits shipment. Some of the vessels undertaking to move this bulk are in the harbor.

Hamburg-American Line

The former Anchor liner Algeria, 5,000 gross tons, has been sold to the Hamburg-American Line and will be placed on the Hamburg-Cuba-Mexico service by that company under the name of the Toledo. She will join the Holstein in maintaining a monthly passenger schedule.

The Algeria was built in Germany in 1914 and was known as the Kigoma. She was seized by the British and sold to the Anchor Line. In addition to the two passenger vessels, the Hamburg-American Line has a number of freighters on the line and will add more.

**French Line Starts New
Cruise Service This Week**

Inauguration of a new service this week between Havre, Cuba and New Orleans by the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique is announced in European reports. The schedule calls for monthly sailings beginning December 15, with the steamships Niagara, 16,700 tons, and De La Salle, 15,000 tons. Ports of call, if the demand justifies it, will be Gijon, Vigo and the Canaries.

The French line's vessels now take passengers and mails regularly three times a month between Casablanca and Bordeaux. The Brest-Douarnenez service, which has been suspended since the war, is to be reopened.

Empress of France Nearly Ready for New York Trip

The Canadian Pacific liner Empress of France is being reconditioned by J. L. Thornycroft & Co., of England. She will be ready January 6 to depart for New York preparatory to a round-the-world cruise. She is being fitted with a special laundry to accommodate passengers for the time they will be on board. Other innovations are a swimming bath and a completely fitted photographic room. Minor structural alterations are to be made and the ship's turbines and other machinery will be thoroughly overhauled.

**Lloyd Royal Belge
Sells More Vessels**

Sale of a number of vessels by the Lloyd Royal Belge was reported in British dispatches yesterday. Following the disposal of the Armenian, Hastier and Peruvier, the company has also sold the Brabantier and Cimbrier to German interests. The purpose behind these sales is not disclosed. The Armenian bought \$12,500, the Brabantier \$12,500 and the Cimbrier \$12,500. The prices average \$8,750 a dead-weight ton.

**Cunard Line Displaces
All Marconi Operators**

Officials of the Cunard Line abroad have announced that on arrival of the company's ships in port all Marconi wireless operators will be displaced with employees of the line. Each of the vessels carries three operators.

Senior operators will rank with a second ship's officer. Junior operators will also be graded as officers.

Notice to Mariners

By U. S. Hydrographic Office

A vessel on the Hergo's Reef, Sambava Islands in the Indian Ocean, 15° 10' S. appears to be a derelict; is visible 11 miles.

Captain R. Richter reports that on December 4 and 6 he observed Tarpaulin Rock, 15° 10' S., 100 miles off the coast. On December 3 Heads Light Vessel Calmarias 225 N. Cristobal Dec. 11. Calmarias 224 N. Cape Henry Dec. 12. City of Liverpool 200 N. Cape Henry Dec. 12.

YOGO, Dec. 18—Spaardam (Dt.), New Orleans via Halifax and Rotterdam. HONGKONG, Dec. 19—New York. San Francisco: Margaret Dollar, San Francisco.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 19—Alaska (Maru) (Dt.) via Nagasaki, Manila, Hong Kong.

MANILA, Dec. 19—Cape Villano (Span.).

MANCHESTER, Dec. 21—Eastern Sailor, Port-of-Spain.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 22—Cape Villano (Span.).

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